

Today, I join Karnit Goldwasser in seeking to further the pursuit of liberty, democracy and peace throughout the world. And it is my sincere hope that Udi, Eldad and every other Israeli captive of Hamas and Hezbollah will be united with their families as soon as is humanly possible.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH SIMUNOVICH

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Simunovich, who at the end of his 3-year term is being recognized for his service as chairman of the board of governors at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC). Mr. Simunovich has been the driving force behind the implementation of vital policy that has advanced the successful actions of HUMC, thus contributing to its prestigious reputation.

In addition, Mr. Simunovich currently serves as a member of the board of directors for United Water Resources, and as vice chairman for the board of Directors of United Water New Jersey—New York. In this position, Mr. Simunovich is responsible for setting public policy and strategic planning, focusing on external affairs and government relations. Since joining the company in 1992, Mr. Simunovich has been vice president, and senior vice president, as well as president and chief of staff of United Water Management and Services.

Active in governmental and civic associations, Mr. Simunovich was appointed by Governor Thomas Kean in 1986 as a member of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA). He was reappointed as vice chairman of the EDA by Governors James Florio and Christine Whitman for six consecutive terms, having, to date, the longest tenure in the organization's history. Mr. Simunovich also completed a 1-year assignment as a loaned executive to the Governor's Management Review Commission.

Joseph Simunovich's life in public service started even earlier. As a resident of West New York, he was elected to the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, where he served for 12 years. Mr. Simunovich was also appointed chairman of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority by Governor James E. McGreevey in 2002, where he led the integration of the Garden State Parkway into the Turnpike Authority.

Mr. Simunovich has been a member of numerous boards of directors including New Jersey City University, the New Brunswick Development Corporation, the National Association of Water Companies, and the National Council for Public Private Partnerships.

Please join me in honoring Joseph Simunovich for his guidance and service, and in congratulating him and his family.

PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this legislation establishes a statutory process under which incumbent and former Presidents could, within specified time limits, review records prior to their release, and determine whether to personally assert constitutional privilege claims against release of the records.

This legislation is identical to legislation introduced in a prior Congress and approved by the Committee under the leadership of the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. BURTON.

During consideration of the bill before us, the Committee approved my amendment to close a loophole in the Presidential Records Act. Current law allows those individuals previously convicted of a crime relating to mishandling Archives records to continue to have special access to Presidential records. My amendment states that the Archivist shall not make available any original Presidential records to any individual claiming access as a designated representative under statute, if that individual has been convicted of a crime relating to the review, retention, removal, or destruction of Archives records.

As I noted in Committee, we should take the simple step of blocking access to original Presidential records if you've been convicted of crime related to Archives records.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK OF GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI, THE POLISH HERO OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birth anniversary of General Casimir Pulaski, the Polish Hero of the Revolutionary War.

Often referred to as the father of American cavalry, Kazimierz Michal Wacław Wiktor Pulaski herbu Słupowron, more commonly referred to as General Casimir Pulaski, was born in 1746 in Winiary. Born into one of the most notable families in the region, he was sent away at a young age to be educated.

Working alongside his father Jozef in 1768, Pulaski co-founded the Bar Confederation, an insurrectionists group that aimed to limit the spread of Russian hegemony, a threat to Policy liberty and Catholicism, throughout the commonwealth. With the motto of "For Faith and Freedom," Pulaski participated in leading a confederation which fought for these goals. Pulaski gained renown during the battle of 1771 and went on to assert his leadership skills, military adroitness and valor in several battles before being exiled for a failed attempt to abduct the king. Although his efforts failed, Pulaski's leadership and courage inspired many.

In 1777 Pulaski traveled to the United States and met with General George Wash-

ington. Pulaski transformed soldiers into highly mobile forces, instituting the idea of a cavalry; soldiers who fought mounted on horseback. He would go on to lead several successful battles before sustaining a fatal gunshot wound in 1779.

Americans and Polish citizens alike have recognized Pulaski's heroism and commitment to freedom for centuries. He is honored, in both countries, in statue and in ceremony. In death, as in life, he remains a symbol of courage, commitment and friendship between Poland and the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GAINES

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, the community of El Segundo, located in my congressional district, sustained a genuine loss this week. John Gaines, a former member of the El Segundo City Council, highly influential community leader, and my dear friend, succumbed on Monday night following an inspirational battle against a rare form of cancer.

John was a terrific guy. Even as he struggled with his illness, John never lost heart, and continued to be a rock for his family and friends. When I last saw him only a few months ago, he told me his doctors had advised that he move up the date of his daughter's December wedding. In typical John Gaines fashion, he not only ignored their advice, he walked his daughter down the aisle.

He even joked with me that, having lost 100 pounds, he had become an adult sex symbol in his form-fitting blue jeans. This kind of levity in a time of extreme pain and uncertainty is a powerful testament to who John Gaines was: strong, compassionate, and charismatic.

Though it ended too soon, John led a full and accomplished life. A long-serving Naval Officer and Aviator, he attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander by the time he left military service in 1979.

Following his naval service, John returned to Southern California to start a distinguished career in the South Bay's booming aerospace industry. He quickly became an industry leader and worked at senior levels for some of the region's leading firms.

Ironically, it took the prodding of his son to get John into politics. But once elected, he was a natural and I believe John will be remembered most for his unwavering dedication to public service.

As a member of the El Segundo City Council, he made emergency preparedness, homeland security and community development priorities. During his tenure, John was instrumental in securing funds to better prepare El Segundo for any possible man-made or natural disasters. He also oversaw projects that helped to revitalize the city's downtown.

Over the years, John had a profound influence on so many people and literally helped change the face of his community. He and Assemblyman Mike Gordon, our mutual friend who died at age 47 of a brain tumor in 2005, are now local legend. John's wife, Susan, told me she is certain they are reunited.

My heart goes out to his wife Susan and their three children, Rebecca, Robert and Benjamin. Susan says the two boys are so much like their father. How fortunate!